

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/626,358

Examiner

Devona E. Faulk

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/4/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12, 33-37 and 43-47.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/14/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 12/4/2007, with respect to the 112 1st rejection have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 1st rejection of claims 1-12,33-37 and 37 has been withdrawn.
2. Claims 13-32,38-42 are cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David T. Yang (Reg. No. 44,415) on 2/29/2008.

The claims are to be amended as follows:

Claim 4, line 6: after "one" delete "anther" and insert in its place - - another - -.

Claim 43, line 14: delete "a second storage that stores second scene data specifying contents of a mixing process".

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-12,33-37 and 43-47 are allowed.
5. Regarding claims 1,33 and 43 prior art US 4,993,073 to Sparkes discloses a digital signal mixing apparatus. Prior art WO 99/37046 to Powers et al. discloses a sound-mixing console with master control section. Prior art EP 0 251 646 to Franks et

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al. discloses an audio production console. Prior art JP 09-298517 to Matsutani et al. discloses an audio mixer. Prior art WO 99/37032 to Mackie et al. discloses a digital signal mixing architecture. Prior art JP 2000-261391 to Aoki discloses a bidirectional cascade-connecting mixer.

Regarding claims 1 and 33, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a first transmission step for transmitting a scene recall request from said first mixing system to said second mixing system when a recall event of said first scene data occurs in said first mixing system; a second transmission step for transmitting back a recall enabling response from said second mixing system to said first mixing system after said second mixing system receives said scene recall request; a first reconstruction step for reconstructing the contents of the mixing process by said first mixing system on the basis of said first scene data after the reception of said recall enabling response by said first mixing system; and a second reconstruction step for reconstructing the contents of the mixing process by said second mixing system on the basis of said second scene data after the transmission of Said recall enabling response by said second mixing system.

Regarding claim 43, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a first transmission part that transmits a scene recall request from said first mixing system to said second mixing system when a recall event of said first scene data occurs in said first mixing system; a first reception part that receives a recall enabling response from said second mixing system; a first reconstruction part that reconstructs the contents of the mixing process of said first mixing system on the basis of said first

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scene data after the reception of said recall enabling response, and wherein said second mixing system comprises: a second storage that stores second scene data specifying contents of a mixing process; a second transmission part that transmits said recall enabling response to said first mixing system after said second mixing system receives said scene recall request; and a second reconstruction part that reconstructs the contents of the mixing process of said second mixing system on the basis of said second scene data after the transmission of said recall enabling response to said first mixing system.

Therefore the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a method of controlling a total mixing system and a total mixing system as claimed.

Claims 2-12,34-37 and 44-47 are allowed due to dependency on claims 1,33 and 43.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DEF


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER